

MARCH 25, 2020



St. John Catholic School

Educational Ministry of St. John The Baptist Parish



MARCH 30TH

CESAR CHAVEZ DAY:

Students do not need to report for Sustained Learning.

MARCH 31ST

FACE DEADLINE:

The **FACE** deadline to apply has been extended to **March 31st**.

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR DATES:

Currently planned and projected calendar dates for the 2020-2021 school year, including school start and end dates, as well as holiday breaks and days off will be shared soon.

Dear Shamrock Family,

I sincerely hope that each of you is healthy and well. Last week I encouraged us all to make the most and the best of this time. While perhaps the novelty of this varied learning model has worn off, or maybe a steady daily groove is finally coming around, I feel it is safe to say there are daily challenges and value that can be identified with our new “normal.” Last week I shared with you that I had reflected on, “What is God trying to tell us?” so far during this “Shelter in Place” time, and I must say, this thought is still something upon which I reflect daily.

I believe we are being called to look inward, while considering all that is outside of each of us. While we, individually, have so much to offer to ourselves, our family, friends, coworkers and faith community; we also have so much more to offer to God and we are an integral part of a much larger, interconnected body of people, whom I believe, are being called to be and do better! Just like we do with children who stray off the intended path and are asked to take a break, perhaps in solitude, to reflect and consider a way to do better and rejoin the group, perhaps so are we being called to do the same during this period of time in our lives? Let us take this forced time alone, whether with our families, or individually- such is my position, and consider ways to become better for God, ourselves, and all those around us.

With Love and Appreciation,

Ms. Paige Child

COVID- 19 RELATED TUITION ASSISTANCE:

The SJCS Finance Team is working on an additional tuition assistance model for needy families during this tumultuous time, due to hardships related to the COVID-19 crisis. We at St. John are sensitive to the needs of our school families. More, detailed information regarding potential financial support for some of our school families will come in the near future.

ACCESSING THE SCHOOL:

While the school is closed, due to mandate, items can be dropped off to the school by way of the drop-box slot, within the wall, to the right of the school's front door. Should you need access to the school, for any reason, an email may be sent to Ms. Marlene (magutierrez@csdo.org) or Ms. Aimee (asire@csdo.org) to make arrangements.

FUNDRAISING:

Due to Covid-19 and "Shelter in Place" orders, all future fundraising opportunities have been currently suspended, including that of See's Candy. School families' \$300 fundraising requirements will be taken into consideration for the 2019-2020 school year.

WEEKLY UPDATES:

Weekly communication in the form of our school's digital newsletter will continue. Additionally, updates pertaining to all items surrounding our mandated COVID-19 Sustained Learning routine will be made on our school's website and can be accessed using the tab, directly under "Welcome to St. John Catholic School" on the homepage. A direct link to these updates is provided below and all other necessary and immediate communication will be made using School Messenger.
<https://www.stjohncatholicschool.org/important-information.html>

SCHOOL REOPENING:

While we do **not** currently have an established return to school date, we did receive communication from the Alameda County Office of Education stating they are extending school closures through May 1st. We will have to inevitably follow directives provided by the Department of Catholic Schools, at the Diocese of Oakland, who will follow measures shared by the CDC and state leadership. With this said, state and federal leadership has made no formal commitment pertaining to a specific date at which we would be permitted to safely return to our previous daily routine, including that of school but has communicated that it will be no sooner than May 1st. Should that change you will be informed. The seven Bay Area county health officers, in collaboration with their county superintendents, have made a unified, regional decision to extend school closures and student dismissals from regular school attendance through May 1, 2020, to slow the spread of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to the maximum extent. We join them in stating the safety and wellness of students, school personnel and the community are the priority.

Below is a message from the DCS

The Department of Catholic Schools is extending our Long-Term Dismissal through at least May 1, 2020. This decision aligns us with the recommendation of our local health officials. I know all of us would like to have our students and faculty/staff back into the classrooms as soon as possible. However, the health and well-being of all are our priority. Additionally, during this time, we ask our school communities to continue to adhere to the "Shelter in Place" order issued by our local health agencies and Governor Newsom.

Please know we have a close partnership with our local health departments. We urge you to keep practicing the guidance provided by public health officers including:

- Social distancing
- Washing hands often with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Staying home if you are feeling sick
- Contacting your healthcare provider if you are experiencing any symptoms such as fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.
- Engage in regular exercise or physical activity

REGISTRATION OF CURRENT STUDENTS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR:

It is the time of the school year when we begin registration for our next school year. However, with everything going on surrounding that of the current pandemic, we delayed our communication regarding registration. We also realize this is not an ideal time to ask families to pay registration for the 2020-2021 school year, given current circumstances. With that in mind, we have decided to **extend our returning student registration window**. Normally, registration for the following school year is due in April. This year, we have decided to **extend that deadline to May 15th**. Payments received after May 15th will be charged a \$50 re-enrollment fee. Registration packets will be created and provided to families once payment is received. The process for providing families with registration packets will be determined over the next few weeks. Additional information regarding registration and 2020-2021 family tuition contracts will be available next week.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY:

During this Sustained Learning period, the administration is making many efforts to remain connected in faith to our school and parish community. As with this week, weekly Sunday mass will continue to be either recorded and uploaded or live streamed in both English and Spanish. Additionally, starting next week, we will be adding the recording and uploading or live streaming of a school mass, geared toward students. This will take place at our regular school mass time- Wednesdays at 10am starting next week April 1st. Please refer to our school website's homepage, using the tab "Remaining Connected with Our School Family" for access to recorded Sunday and Wednesday masses. A direct link to currently uploaded content is provided below:

<https://www.stjohncatholicschool.org/remaining-connected.html>

In accordance with two weekly mass opportunities is the opportunity to join Ms. Child, live, for morning prayer via our Parent/Teacher Facebook page on Mondays and Fridays at 8am.

CRS RICE BOWL LENTEN RESOURCES:

1) **Families Page:** Go to www.crsricebowl.org/families to find **Rice Bowl Lenten Calendar** with daily reflections, suggestions for activities and ideas for donating; **Activity Sheets** for grades 1st - 3rd; For activities and lessons for grades 4th - 8th and higher, go to the Educators page at www.crsricebowl.org/schools; **Lenten Stories of Hope**, for each week of Lent, can be read and the videos viewed; **Meatless Recipes** for Fridays during Lent; Families are forced to cook more at home now, so it's a good opportunity to try these recipes.

2) **Spiritual Practices for the Entire Family:**

Stations of the Cross (virtual) at www.crsricebowl.org/stations-of-the-cross

Novena for Times of Unraveling at abbeyofthearts.com/programs/online-classes/novena-for-times-of-unraveling/

Please remember that all these Rice Bowl resources are also available in Spanish. Simply click on the box "ESPANOL" at the top of the page.

COVID-19 : A PRAYER OF SOLIDARITY

For all who have contracted coronavirus, We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,

We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.

Grant comfort.

Grant healing.

Be with us, Lord

Amen.

- *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.*